

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-2976
of The Hemingford Cooperative)
Telephone Company of Hemingford,) GRANTED
Nebraska, seeking authority to)
issue long-term indebtedness.) Entered: August 5, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed July 1, 2003, The Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company (Hemingford) of Hemingford, Nebraska, seeks authority to issue long-term indebtedness. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on July 2, 2003. No protests were filed; therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Hemingford is certificated as a provider of local exchange services in Hemingford, Nebraska. As of December 31, 2002, Hemingford had 961 access lines.

Hemingford requests that the Commission grant approval of the present application pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 75-148, which states in pertinent part:

"A common carrier may issue stock, bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, payable at periods of more than twelve months after the date thereof, when necessary for the acquisition of property, the construction, completion, extension or improvement of facilities, the improvement or maintenance of its service, or the discharge or lawful refunding of its obligations if the common carrier first secures from the commission an order authorizing such issue and the amount thereof and stating that in the opinion of the commission the use of the capital to be secured by the issue of such stock, bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness is reasonably required for the purposes of the carrier."

Applicant proceeded with a home office building construction project during 2002, the costs of which have, to date, been paid from cash reserves and from short-term borrowing. Application proposes to proceed with the completion of its home office building construction project during 2003. In connection with this proposed project, applicant has retained the engineering services of RVW, Inc., of Columbus, Nebraska, to assist with the design of the home office building.

Applicant requests authority to borrow a total of \$1,958,000 from Rural Utility Service (RUS) for the purposes of the above improvements, with the disbursement of funds by the RUS to be made at a date or dates following this Commission's approval of this issuance of indebtedness and the completion of documentation required in connection with the RUS indebtedness and as required in connection with the construction of the proposed plant improvement project.

Upon review of the evidence, the Commission finds the application to be in the public interest and to be reasonably required for the purposes of Hemingford. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2976 be, and it is hereby, granted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of August, 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Deputy Director